

# Worksheet for Video: Ida B. Wells, A Passion for Justice

*These questions follow the video in order.*

1. What was childhood and family life like for Ida Wells?
2. Why were many black former slaves unable to read?
3. What was the first crisis Ida faced? What happened to her parents? Her siblings?
4. Why did Ida go to the big city? What were the conditions like in Memphis?
5. What laws did the southern states pass that created a new order? What was the effect on the progress of African-Americans?
6. What political action did Wells take to get her story out? What organizations helped her? What meaning did she find for her life?
7. What personal qualities made Wells popular? What issues did she focus on in her writing?
8. Describe Ida's friend that was killed. Who was one of the lynchers?
9. How did Wells retaliate? What issues did she speak out about? What questions was she forced to ask herself? Why were her words so inflammatory?
10. What did Ida do after staying in Memphis? What did she urge people to do? What strategy did she use?
11. What reasons were given for lynching of African-American men? What did Wells find out about these charges? What injustice did she speak out about the most?
12. What was the African-American Woman's Club movement? Why was it so powerful?
13. Who was Frederick Douglass? What did he think of Ida's work? Why was Wells' work so highly regarded?
14. What efforts does Wells make for promoting the rights of women?
15. Why did Wells criticize the actions of Susan B Anthony?
16. What made Ida so powerful and so feared?
17. Why do you think historians call Wells, "Everything we value in American heroes"? Why was so little ever known about her?

